United Nations A/73/642

General Assembly

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Seventy-third session
Agenda items 136 and 52

Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Effects of atomic radiation

Effects of atomic radiation

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.9

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.9 (A/C.5/73/8). During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 6 December 2018.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 18 of draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.9, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to strengthen support for the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation within existing resources, in particular with regard to the deputization of the Secretary of the Scientific Committee, the avoidance of disruptions in staffing and the increase in operational costs in the case of a further increase in membership, and to report to the Assembly at its seventy-fourth session on those issues.

3. In relation to the draft resolution, regarding the strengthening of support for the Scientific Committee, in the statement of the Secretary-General it is proposed to reclassify one existing P-4 post to the P-5 level as Deputy Secretary, as a result of which additional requirements in the amount of $24,900, under section 14, Environment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 would arise annually, starting 1 January 2019 (see A/C.5/73/8, paras. 4 and 7).

4. In paragraph 5 of the statement of the Secretary-General it is indicated that the incumbent of the proposed P-5 post would perform the duties of the Secretary of the Scientific Committee during the Secretary's absence, including organizing the annual session of the Scientific Committee, sending notes verbales and invitation letters to representatives of Member States, meeting high-level diplomats, making decisions

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with regard to the budget and representing the secretariat of the Committee at official meetings.

5. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as the post of the Secretary of the Scientific Committee is at the D-1 level, the proposed reclassification of the P-4 post to the P-5 level would operationalize the request in the draft resolution on the deputization of the Committee's Secretary. The Committee was also informed that, as no deputy is currently in place, in the absence of the Secretary during the 2018 session of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Officer (P-4) provided support.

6. Regarding the recruitment process, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry that, since January 2017, when the former Secretary of the Scientific Committee tendered his resignation, the United Nations Environment Programme had launched three rounds of recruitment exercises for the D-1 post of Committee Secretary, but had not been able, in the first two rounds, to identify a suitable candidate. With respect to the current, third, round of recruitment, the process of interviewing the applicants has been completed and the results have been passed on for consideration to the Central Review Board.

7. **The Advisory Committee is not fully convinced by the justifications for the proposed reclassification, in particular why deputization at the P-4 level would not be adequate at this stage. In addition, the Committee takes note of the advanced stage of the recruitment process for the D-1 position of Secretary of the Scientific Committee, and is of the view that any deputization arrangements should await the outcome of the recruitment process. Following the selection of the new Secretary, the Secretary-General may consider making proposals for the strengthening of the Scientific Committee in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2020. Therefore, the Committee recommends against the approval of the proposed reclassification of one P-4 post to the P-5 level as Deputy Secretary. The Committee also encourages the Secretary-General to expedite the completion of the recruitment process for the position of Secretary of the Scientific Committee.**

8. With respect to the draft resolution, regarding the increase in operational costs in the case of a further increase in membership, the statement of the Secretary-General indicates that, given that the modalities and timing of possible increases in membership are not specified, the Secretary-General would issue the related budgetary implications when such decisions are made (A/C.5/73/8, para. 6). The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that, if so decided by the General Assembly, four countries currently with observer status would become members in 2021.

9. **The Advisory Committee recommends against the approval of the proposed reclassification of one established P-4 post to the P-5 level as Deputy Secretary under section 14, Environment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019. Accordingly, the Committee also recommends against the related resource requirements of $24,900 under section 14, Environment, and the amount of $4,400 under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019.**

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Agenda items 136 and 82

Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventieth session

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventieth session

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.6/73/L.22

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.6/73/L.22 (A/C.5/73/12). During its consideration of the statement, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 6 December 2018.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 18 of draft resolution A/C.6/73/L.22, the General Assembly would take note of paragraph 395 of the report of the International Law Commission (A/73/10) and decide that the next session of the Commission would be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 29 April to 7 June and from 8 July to 9 August 2019.

3. In the statement, the Secretary-General indicates that the draft resolution would entail additional resource requirements in the amount of $128,100, comprising travel expenses for members for seven additional days ($114,900) and travel expenses for staff for seven additional days ($13,200). It is further stated that the requested resources would be in addition to the amount of $3,008,100 included in the programme budget for 2018–2019 under section 8, Legal affairs, for the International Law Commission, which was based on an 11-week session in 2018 and a 10-week session in 2019, with an assumed average attendance at the annual session of 82 per cent of the membership (see A/C.5/73/12, paras. 4 and 5).

4. The statement of the Secretary-General indicates that it is not possible to identify activities within section 8 of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 that

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could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium, and it would therefore be necessary that these requested resources be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium (A/C.5/73/12, para. 7).

5. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 30 November 2018, total expenditures under section 8, Legal affairs, amounted to $34,349,900, representing 68.3 per cent of the initial appropriation of $50,311,200 for the biennium 2018–2019.

6. The Advisory Committee notes that the requested resources for the travel of members and staff for seven additional days would provide for an 11-week session in 2019. The Committee recalls its previous recommendation that adequate resources be provided to support the full duration of the meetings of the International Law Commission up to a total of 12 weeks per annum, as mandated by the General Assembly (A/72/7, para. III.37). The Committee further notes that expenditures under section 8, Legal affairs, at this stage of the biennium amounted to 68.3 per cent of the initial appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019. **Taking these factors into consideration, the Committee recommends approval of the requested resources in the amount of $128,100.**

7. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.6/73/L.22, additional resources in the amount of $128,100 would arise under section 8, Legal affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, representing a charge against the contingency fund.**

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General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Seventy-third session
Agenda item 101 (b)
General and complete disarmament: nuclear disarmament

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Letter dated 30 November 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Further to our letter dated 16 August 2017 (S/2017/720), I have the honour to transmit the following information in regard to the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015).

The Islamic Republic of Iran is a full member of the United Nations and a State party to many multilateral non-proliferation mechanisms, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. None of these instruments, including resolution 2231 (2015), prohibit Iran from developing missile and space programmes. Moreover, Iran has been respecting, in good faith, the call addressed to it in paragraph 3 of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015) to refrain from activities related to ballistic missiles that are designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons. As of yet, no viable information to the contrary has ever been provided to the Security Council.

Simultaneously the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has consistently, since the date of the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, reported on Iran's full compliance with its nuclear-related commitments under resolution 2231 (2015) and on the continuous provisional application of the Additional Protocol to its Safeguards Agreement with IAEA, thus, inter alia, assuring the international community that Iran is not engaging in activities, including at the research and development level, that could contribute to the development of a nuclear explosive device. There is also absolutely no evidence that Tehran is deploying infrastructure for the storage or servicing of nuclear weapons.

Given the complete lack of evidence that Iran is developing or producing a nuclear weapon or means of its delivery, the Russian Federation deeply regrets that certain Member States continue with their attempts to abuse the Missile Technology Control Regime in order to inject baseless speculations of alleged violations by Iran of its obligations under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Such unfounded actions are not only void of any substantial value to the goal of enhancing the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), they are also highly damaging to the

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efforts by the international community to preserve the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

We would like to underline that the category I parameters of the annex to the Missile Technology Control Regime are but a reference tool for States in the exercise of restraint when exporting certain missile technologies. Never were they intended to be used in the context of resolution 2231 (2015) to ascertain whether or not certain ballistic missiles are designed to be capable of carrying nuclear weapons. It is well known that such missiles include certain features, such as a special warhead platform, a nuclear weapon control system, an apparatus to prevent unsanctioned access to the nuclear weapon, as well as other features. At the same time none of the communications to the Security Council in connection with paragraph 3 of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015) have ever presented any evidence of the existence of such features on Iranian ballistic missiles or space launch vehicles.

I would be grateful for the circulation of the present letter as a document of the Security Council and of the General Assembly (under agenda item 101 (b), "Nuclear disarmament").

(*Signed*) D. **Polyanskiy**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/73/645–S/2018/1105

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Seventy-third session
Agenda item 66
Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 10 December 2018 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

A high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, convened on 24 and 25 April 2018 by the President of the General Assembly pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, provided Member States with the opportunity to discuss the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43). In parallel, on 25 April, the Council convened a briefing on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The meetings concluded with the adoption of two parallel resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, Assembly resolution 72/276 and Council resolution 2413 (2018), by which the Assembly and the Council (a) welcomed the presentation of the report of the Secretary-General; (b) invited relevant bodies of the United Nations, including the Peacebuilding Commission, to further advance, explore and consider implementation of the recommendations and options contained in the report; (c) requested the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly an interim report further elaborating on his recommendations and options; and (d) requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly a report in connection with the next review of the peacebuilding architecture.

With a view to the implementation of the new resolutions, the Peacebuilding Commission, with the support of the Peacebuilding Support Office, agreed to convene a series of meetings to discuss the recommendations and options set out in the report of the Secretary-General. The meetings were organized around the following four themes addressed in the report: (a) operational and policy coherence; (b) financing for peacebuilding; (c) leadership, accountability and capacity in supporting peacebuilding and sustaining peace; and (d) partnerships for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

On behalf of the members of the Commission, I wish to share with the General Assembly and the Security Council the main elements that were raised during this important process.

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At a meeting on 30 May, the Commission convened senior representatives of the United Nations system, including from the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Peacebuilding Support Office, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme, to explore ways to strengthen operational and policy coherence, synergies and complementarities in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. While noting that sustainable development and human rights constituted universal goals and were most often pursued as ends in themselves, Member States emphasized the importance of strengthening, where relevant, coherence, synergies and complementarities both at Headquarters and in the field, while respecting the mandates of each entity. They also welcomed the announcement by the Secretary-General of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and highlighted the important role of peacekeeping as a platform for early peacebuilding.

Representatives of the United Nations system underscored the importance for the Organization of focusing more on areas such as funding, prioritization and sequencing. They also referred to the importance of close collaboration between Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and United Nations country teams in transition settings. A number of Member States expressed their expectations for the reforms of the Secretary-General to strengthen capacity in addressing diverse challenges and to have a positive impact on intergovernmental processes. Member States recognized the strengthened advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission, in particular with regard to the Security Council. Delegations reiterated the importance for the Commission to better align its programme of work with that of the Security Council and to plan its activities further in advance. They also underscored their readiness to provide targeted advice, as appropriate, complementing the reports of the Secretary-General, in particular during deliberations on mandate renewals.

On 19 June, the Commission was briefed by representatives of the Office of the Controller, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Development Programme and the Peacebuilding Support Office on the options set out in the report of the Secretary-General that pertain to financing for peacebuilding. Member States welcomed the meeting as an opportunity to better understand the various options and to reaffirm their support for peacebuilding. In that connection, several Member States reiterated the Secretary-General's call for a "quantum leap" in contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund, which should be unearmarked and provided over a longer term to ensure that support is both responsive and predictable. Delegations also welcomed stronger synergies between the Commission and the Fund, which were leading to mutually reinforcing action in peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including by enhancing coherence between the policy discussions of the Commission and the programmatic activities of the Fund. The importance of further discussing the various financing options was also recognized.

On 7 September, the Commission convened a meeting on leadership, accountability and capacity in supporting peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The Secretary-General delivered opening remarks, in which he highlighted that effective, responsive and accountable leadership that was provided with the right capacities and resources in support of national Governments and their populations was central to his vision for sustaining peace. He also noted the Commission's essential role as a "double hinge", not only between the various intergovernmental organs of the United Nations, but also between intergovernmental bodies and the activities undertaken by the United Nations system on the ground, in particular during transitions. In that regard, the Commission has promoted accountability, shared good practices, provided guidance and facilitated broader partnerships with other actors, including the World Bank. He also stressed that the role and capacity of the Peacebuilding Support Office as a hinge would be further strengthened through its integration into the Department of Political and Peacebuilding

Affairs in 2019 as part of the restructuring of the peace and security pillar. He also underscored the importance of the changes under way as part of United Nations reform efforts, including the revitalization of the Peacebuilding Support Office. The upcoming interim report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions 72/276 and 2413 (2018) will be a further opportunity to provide an update on progress in that regard. Member States reaffirmed their commitments to further deliberate and advise the General Assembly and Security Council, as appropriate. Delegations underscored, inter alia, the importance for the United Nations in the field to work in support of national Governments, aiming at strengthening their capacities, in particular with respect to development. They also recognized that the Commission added unique value by: (a) acting as a forum for convening a wide range of stakeholders, including international financial institutions; (b) providing a platform for country-specific and regional discussions, with the consent of all countries concerned, that could also bring together resident coordinators and the leadership of United Nations entities from an early stage; and (c) expanding space for sharing good practices in peacebuilding. Delegations also noted that the role of women was vital to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

On 27 November, the Commission discussed the recommendations pertaining to partnerships for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Member States shared their views and experiences on the challenges and opportunities of partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, civil society, the private sector, the World Bank and other international financial institutions. They reflected on the Secretary-General's recommendations on strengthening partnerships with relevant stakeholders and noted the importance of closer and more strategic collaboration with diverse partner organizations to ensure that the United Nations supports actors at all levels in their efforts to build and sustain peace. It was noted that the Peacebuilding Commission, in view of its bridging and convening role, should enhance collaboration with key partners, within and outside the United Nations system. The Commission's partnerships with regional and subregional organizations were recognized as a good practice. Member States noted that stronger dialogue between the United Nations and the World Bank on financing issues related to peacebuilding activities was required and they welcomed the decision of the Peacebuilding Commission and the World Bank to convene annual dialogues.

The meeting on 27 November also provided an opportunity for Member States to take stock of the series of discussions and to share their views on how to move forward. In that connection, and in response to resolutions 72/276 and 2413 (2018), the members of the Peacebuilding Commission wish to propose that the General Assembly and the Commission consider convening informal interactive dialogues to further advance, explore and consider the implementation of the recommendations and options set out in the report. Those dialogues, which could take place in early 2019 and be conducted at the expert-level, would provide a platform for all Member States to share their views on the status of implementation of those resolutions before the Secretary-General finalizes and presents to the Assembly the interim report mandated pursuant to those resolutions. That could be followed by a plenary meeting of the Assembly after the report is issued.

I remain at the disposal of the General Assembly and the Security Council to further explore ways to continue this important dialogue. I kindly ask you to circulate the present letter to the members of the Assembly and the Council and to issue it as a document of the Assembly and the Council.

(*Signed*) Ion **Jinga**
Chair
Peacebuilding Commission

United Nations A/73/646

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Seventy-third session
Agenda items 136 and 20 (g)

Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Sustainable development: report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.49

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/73/17) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.49 regarding the report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with responses received on 11 December 2018.

2. Under the terms of paragraph 9 of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.49, the General Assembly would express concern about the sustainability, predictability and stability of the funding of the UNEP governing body and request the Secretary-General to make proposals, as appropriate.

3. The Secretary-General indicates in his statement that regular budget resources would be needed to fund conference-servicing, administrative, logistical and substantive support to the following activities of the UNEP governing body: (a) the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, from 11 to 15 March 2019, and its subsequent sessions, to be held for five days in odd-numbered years thereafter; (b) the fourth open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP, from 4 to 8 March 2019, and its subsequent sessions, to be held every two years thereafter; (c) quarterly meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives; and (d) annual meetings of the Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (A/C.5/73/17, para. 5).

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4. The required resources would amount to a total of $2,006,100 for the biennium 2018–2019, comprising: (a) $1,595,700 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; and (b) $410,400 under section 14, Environment. In addition, the projected requirements after 2019 would amount to $492,400 for 2020 and all even-numbered years thereafter and $1,684,900 for 2021 and all odd-numbered years thereafter. The resource requirements are further detailed in paragraphs 6 to 18 of the statement.

5. With respect to the requirements for the implementation of the activities for the biennium 2018–2019, the statement indicates that provisions amounting to $1,050,100 under section 2 and $87,000 under section 14 have been included in the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, and that an amount of $545,600 under section 2 would be absorbed within the approved 2018–2019 appropriation for the section. As regards the balance of the requirements for the biennium 2018–2019 in the amount of $323,400, the Secretary-General indicates that it would not be possible at present to identify activities within section 14 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium (A/C.5/73/17, para. 19).

6. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the activities mentioned in paragraph 3 above are required under the governance structure adopted in decision 27/2 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in February 2013, by which the Governing Council recommended that its name be changed to United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and established the open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The Advisory Committee was also informed that, as existing regular budget resources reflected the requirements of the previous, more limited configuration and membership of the UNEP government body, they were insufficient to cover the higher requirements for conference services, information and communication technology, security and other services required under the current governance structure, and that the funding gap had been addressed since 2014 through extrabudgetary resources.

7. The Committee was further informed that the concern expressed in paragraph 9 of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.49 (see para. 2 above) was interpreted by the Secretary-General as a request to place the funding of the UNEP governing body on the more sustainable, predictable and stable source of funding that is typically offered by the assessed budget, and that it was considered appropriate to address the requirements for 2019 through a statement on budgetary implications, in the absence of a specific provision that the Secretary-General should make a proposal in the context of the programme budget cycle.

8. **The Advisory Committee questions whether operative paragraph 9 of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.49 constitutes an appropriate basis for a statement on programme budget implications. The Committee takes the view that the language of operative paragraph 9 would not automatically trigger budgetary implications, as it does not decide upon new or expanded mandates or activities, but refers, instead, to activities that have been implemented since 2013. In addition, as the draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to make proposals rather than taking a decision, as is required under the process for programme budget implications, the Advisory Committee is of the view that its intervention in this process is premature, and considers that the proposals of the Secretary-General should be first decided upon by the appropriate body, and reviewed by the Advisory Committee thereafter, if and as appropriate. The Committee therefore recommends against the related resource requirements in the amount of $323,400, under section 14, Environment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019.**

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Seventy-third session
Fifth Committee
Agenda items 136 and 128 (d)

Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/73/L.23

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/73/16) in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/73/L.23 on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States. During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 6 December 2018.

2. Under the terms of draft resolution A/73/L.23, the General Assembly would: (a) welcome the fact that Egypt has agreed to the opening of the United Nations liaison office to the League of Arab States in Cairo and request that the Secretariat of the United Nations coordinate with Egypt to expedite the opening of the office and, in cooperation with the secretariat of the League of Arab States, to finish preparing and adopt the terms of reference defining the functions and mandate of the United Nations liaison office; and, in that context, request the Secretariat of the United Nations and the secretariat of the League of Arab States to continue convening meetings of the high-level working group to follow up on the implementation of the provisions of the protocol of amendment of the text of the cooperation agreement between the two organizations, until the liaison office is opened in Cairo; (b) request the Secretariat of the United Nations and the secretariat of the League of Arab States to continue their periodic consultations; and (c) emphasize the importance of holding the fourteenth sectoral meeting between the two organizations and their specialized

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agencies, to be held at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in 2019, and the fifteenth general cooperation meeting between the two organizations, to be held at the United Nations centre in Vienna in 2020. The Assembly would also request the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session.

3. The required resources would amount to $287,400 for 2019: (a) under section 3, Political affairs, an amount of $267,100, comprising: (i) $151,300 for the establishment of one Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) post to manage the liaison office and to develop a stakeholder network, and of one Administrative Assistant (Local level) post to provide administrative support for the Office; (ii) $29,700 for official travel; (iii) $62,600 for general operating expenses; (iv) $700 for supplies and materials; (v) $22,800 for furniture and equipment; and (b) under section 36, Staff assessment, an amount of $20,300. Furthermore, logistical support would be provided by the office of the United Nations Development Programme in Cairo on a cost-reimbursable basis (A/C.5/73/16, paras. 9–12).

4. It is further indicated in the statement that no provisions have been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the implementation of the requested activities and that it would not be possible at present to identify activities within the sections concerned that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium (A/C.5/73/16, para. 13).

5. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/73/L.23, an additional appropriation in the amount of $287,400, representing a charge against the contingency fund, would be required under the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, comprising: $267,100 under section 3, Political affairs, and $20,300 under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**

6. **The Advisory Committee recommends the establishment of one post of Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) and one post of Administrative Assistant (Local level), effective 1 January 2019, under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019.**

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Agenda items 136 and 72 (b)

Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

A global call for concrete action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.52/Rev.1

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/73/15) in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.52/Rev.1. During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 6 December 2018.

2. Under the terms of draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.52/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to establish a permanent forum on people of African descent;

(b) Request the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Human Rights Council to continue to convene annual commemorative meetings of the Assembly and the Council during the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

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3. According to the Secretary-General, the resources to implement the requests of the General Assembly contained in operative paragraphs 12 and 27 of the draft resolution, would amount to $616,600 in 2019.[1] Of this amount, $95,200 has been included in the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 and $73,900 would be absorbed, resulting in additional one-time and recurrent requirements in the amount of $447,500 for 2019. The resources would provide for the following activities:

(a) Under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management: no additional resources are requested, as the requirements of $126,500 have been included in the programme budget for 2018–2019 ($52,600) or would be absorbed ($73,900) (A/C.5/73/15, paras. 10–11);

(b) Under section 24, Human rights: (i) $102,000 for the establishment, effective 1 January 2019, of one Human Rights Officer (P-4) post as the secretary of the permanent forum on people of African descent (ibid., para. 13); (ii) $62,100 for general temporary assistance (General Service (Other level)) for six months to assist with the organization of the annual permanent forum on people of African descent and with the initial one-day consultation (ibid., para. 14); and (iii) $259,600 (net of the total requirements of $295,500 less $35,900 included in the programme budget for 2018–2019) for travel of representatives, staff and meeting participants (ibid., paras. 15–17);

(c) Under section 28, Public information: $21,000 (net of the total requirements of $27,700 less $6,700 included in the programme budget for 2018–2019) for website redesign and maintenance (ibid., para. 18);

(d) Under section 29F, Administration, Geneva: $2,800 for sound technical and recording services (ibid., para. 12).

4. The Secretary-General indicates that no provision has been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the implementation of the requested activities and that it would not be possible at present to identify activities within the sections concerned that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium (ibid., para. 21).

5. With respect to the total appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that, as at 30 November 2018, expenditures amounted to: (a) $283,126,700 under section 2, representing 45.3 per cent of the appropriation; (b) $106,229,800 under section 24, representing 52.4 per cent of the appropriation; (c) $83,634,400 under section 28, representing 47.2 per cent of the appropriation; and (d) $63,802,100 under section 29F, representing 47.9 per cent of the appropriation.

6. With respect to the anticipated periodicity of meetings, the Advisory Committee was informed that the exact modalities of the permanent forum of people of African descent would be agreed during the consultation meeting preceding the first meeting of the permanent forum, which is expected to replace the annual forum on people of African descent established under General Assembly resolution 69/16. **The Committee trusts that, pending the finalization of the modalities of the permanent forum of people of African descent, details with respect to the actual workload of the proposed Human Rights Officer (P-4) post will be included in the next resource request of the Secretary-General (see para. 8 below).**

[1] The Secretary-General also indicated that requirements would amount to $502,100 for 2020 and every even-numbered year thereafter and to $498,800 for 2021 and every odd-numbered year thereafter (A/C.5/73/15, para. 19, table).

7. Taking into account its recommendation in paragraph 6 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.52/Rev.1, an additional appropriation in the amount of $447,500, representing a charge against the contingency fund, would be required under the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, comprising:

(a) $423,700 under section 24, Human rights;

(b) $21,000 under section 28, Public information;

(c) $2,800 under section 29F, Administration, Geneva;

(d) $11,000 under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

8. The Advisory Committee recommends the establishment of one Human Rights Officer (P-4) post, effective 1 January 2019, under section 24, Human Rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (see para. 6 above).

United Nations A/73/649

General Assembly

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Seventy-third session
Agenda item 136
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Revised estimates relating to the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, section 29B, Department of Operational Support, and section 36, Staff assessment

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates relating to the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, section 29B, Department of Operational Support, and section 36, Staff assessment (A/73/412). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 2 November 2018.

II. Background

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in the four-part strategy contained in his report entitled "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse: a new approach" (A/71/818 and A/71/818/Corr.1), the Secretary-General indicated his intention to elevate the voice of victims and put their rights and dignity at the forefront of efforts to combat sexual exploitation and abuse, which would include: (a) the introduction of victims' assistance support functions at Headquarters and field locations, including through the victims' rights advocate functions; (b) the establishment of a system-wide, consolidated confidential repository of case information, building on the existing Misconduct Tracking System developed by the Department of Field Support; (c) a protocol developed by the Secretary-General on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse as part of the mandates and budgets of peacekeeping operations where heightened risk exists, including guidelines on non-fraternization and prohibitions on the consumption of alcohol, as well as

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proposals for the improvement of welfare and living conditions; and (d) a variety of other measures, such as a revision of the terms of reference of the Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse to permit direct assistance payments to victims to allow them, for example, to attend trials, as well as the establishment of procedures to withhold reimbursements to troop- and police-contributing countries in the event that investigations are not undertaken, reported on and concluded in a timely manner and to transfer the amounts withheld to the Fund.

3. In that report, the Secretary-General indicated that the resource requirements for an Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate with eight positions, as follows: (a) four positions to be funded under the programme budget, comprising one position for a senior human rights expert to serve as the Victims' Rights Advocate, at the Assistant Secretary-General level, heading the office, supported by one position of Human Rights Officer (P-4), one position of Political Affairs Officer (P-3) and one position of Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level)); and (b) four positions, to be funded under peacekeeping budgets, of Victims' Rights Advocate (P-5), to be located at those peacekeeping missions with the largest number of sexual exploitation and abuse cases, namely, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) (now the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH)) and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). For the previous budget periods, the Secretary-General proposed to absorb the estimated resource requirements within the resources approved for the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017 and the peacekeeping missions for the period 2017/18. In its resolution 71/297, the General Assembly welcomed the steps taken to introduce victims' assistance support functions at Headquarters and in the field, and looked forward to future proposals from the Secretary-General in this regard.

4. In his previous report (A/72/373), the Secretary-General proposed to establish the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate under section 1 of the proposed programme budget for 2018–2019, as part of the Office of the Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, with four posts (1 Assistant Secretary-General, 1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)) and non-post requirements, with total resource requirements of $1,326,500 net ($1,431,500 gross). In its related report, the Advisory Committee expressed its view that only limited information had been made available with respect to the staffing requirements of the Office and questioned the appropriateness of the proposed structure and reporting lines of the Office. In view of those concerns, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to indicate in his future proposals an optimal structure for all issues relating to sexual exploitation and abuse and victims' rights. Pending the submission of such proposals, the Committee recommended the temporary establishment of the proposed structure and related posts for the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate for a period of 12 months (A/72/7/Add.27, paras. 8–16).

5. In its resolution 72/262 A, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee as contained in its report on the revised estimates relating to the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate (A/72/7/Add.27), and approved the establishment of four positions in the Office (1 Assistant Secretary-General, 1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)), funded with the application of a 50 per cent vacancy rate, under section 1, for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018.

III. Revised estimates for the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate for 2019

Activities of the Victims' Rights Advocate

6. Information on the activities undertaken by the Victims' Rights Advocate since her appointment is provided in paragraphs 12 to 16 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/73/412). As indicated, the Victims' Rights Advocate has, inter alia: (a) consulted extensively with Member States, United Nations system and related entities, civil society and other stakeholders, in the field and in other locations; (b) convened a meeting on relevant mandates that address aspects of sexual exploitation and abuse, including the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children, relevant special procedures mandates of the Human Rights Council and representatives of relevant United Nations entities; and (c) conducted three field visits, to the Central African Republic, to South Sudan and to Haiti.

7. In his report, the Secretary-General also indicates that, building on efforts currently under way in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti and South Sudan, the Victims' Rights Advocate has initiated and is overseeing a system-wide mapping of victim assistance in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities, including in non-mission settings. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the mapping of services and support had been initiated in eight countries (including the four in which field victims' rights advocates operate) and would serve to identify networks of service providers available on the ground and any gaps or obstacles related thereto, in order to develop recommendations to strengthen the provision of victim support. The Committee was also informed that the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate was coordinating the mapping, which would be led by the field victims' rights advocates, where they operate, together with relevant conduct and discipline teams and with other United Nations entities. The Committee was also informed that the Victims' Rights Advocate was engaged in the finalization of a draft uniform protocol on the provision of assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse (jointly led by the Department of Field Support and the United Nations Children's Fund). **The Committee notes the progress made to date, and looks forward to receiving an update on the outcome of the mapping exercises.**

8. The Advisory Committee recalls the observations made in its previous report regarding the potential risk of fragmentation in the different work streams relating to the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in the field and at Headquarters, in particular with regard to the activities of the Conduct and Discipline Unit at Headquarters and the Conduct and Discipline Teams in peacekeeping missions, which cover prevention of and response to misconduct, including issues relating to sexual exploitation and abuse (A/72/7/Add.27, para. 23). **The Committee stresses the need for close coordination between Headquarters and the field on the above matter.**

Organizational structure

9. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that, in response to the recommendation of the General Assembly, he is putting forward a revised structure (A/73/412, annex), under which the Victims' Rights Advocate reports directly to the Chef de Cabinet. The revised structure takes into account the necessary linkage between the work of the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate and that of the Office of the Special Coordinator, which is aimed at ensuring coordination and aligning efforts across the United Nations system in the implementation of the Secretary-

General's strategy for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. Further information on the role of the Office of the Victim's Rights Advocate and on the activities of the Victims' Rights Advocate since her appointment is provided in paragraphs 10 to 11 of the report.

10. Upon enquiry as to whether the Secretary-General considered the proposed structure to be optimal, the Advisory Committee was informed that the reporting line of the Victims' Rights Advocate to the Chef de Cabinet and, through the latter, to the Secretary-General, appropriately reflected the role of the Victims' Rights Advocate as the centrepiece and cross-cutting element of the Secretary-General's strategy to improve the United Nations response to sexual exploitation and abuse as set out in A/71/818 and A/71/818/Corr.1, thereby ensuring that the rights and dignity of victims were prioritized in all United Nations efforts. The Committee was further informed that the proposed structure clarified the relationship with the Office of the Special Coordinator by ensuring the necessary linkages in areas of work, while highlighting the distinct focus, mandate and independence of the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate. The Committee was also informed that, in the view of the Secretary-General, the proposed structure appropriately reflected the system-wide advocacy and policy-oriented role of the Victims' Rights Advocate, as well as the current priority focus on undertaking wide-ranging and extensive consultations; providing advocacy and policy advice on integrating and mainstreaming a victim-centred approach to address sexual exploitation and abuse; and conducting an initial assessment through a pilot mapping of available assistance and support for victims in the first two years of the establishment of the new position and Office.

11. **The Advisory Committee notes the proposed changes to the structure and reporting line of the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate. The Committee stresses the need for continued coordination between the Office of the Special Coordinator and the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate. The Committee also continues to emphasize the need for further strengthening coordination and harmonization, avoiding fragmentation and ensuring coherence between Headquarters and the field, as well as among United Nations system entities in this area.**

12. The Advisory Committee further recalls that it has frequently stressed the need for comprehensive and updated information on the resources dedicated to the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse, both within the Secretariat and among the United Nations system entities (see A/72/824, paras. 28–29).

Field victims' rights advocates

13. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that three dedicated specialized posts of Field Victims' Rights Advocate (P-5) were included in the proposed budgets for 2018/19 for MINUSCA, MINUJUSTH and MONUSCO and were approved by the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee notes that the organization chart presented in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General includes those three posts.

14. The Advisory Committee recalls that, at the time of its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (see A/72/751 and A/72/751/Corr.1; and A/72/824, para. 32), it had been informed that field victims' rights advocates had been designated in September 2017 from among existing personnel in the respective peacekeeping missions with the requisite experience and expertise to undertake these functions, in addition to their other responsibilities, as follows: (a) the Chief of the Child Protection Section/Human Rights Division (P-5) at MINUSCA; (b) the Chief, Human Rights Service/Representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

(D-1) at MINUJUSTH; (c) the Chief of Civil Affairs (D-1) at MONUSCO and (d) the Director of Mission Support (D-2) at UNMISS.

15. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the current designated Field Victims' Rights Advocate at UNMISS continued to perform the following functions, in addition to other responsibilities: (a) participating in the monthly videoconference meeting for field victims' rights advocates; (b) providing monthly reports and other reports, as appropriate, to the Victims' Rights Advocate; (c) working with victims' rights assistants in Juba and all field locations within South Sudan as part of a small core team, as well as with the designated focal point for victims' rights advocacy actions, including in the Human Rights, Protection of Civilians, Relief, Reintegration and Protection, Child Protection and Gender Affairs sections of the Mission; (d) working with the Conduct and Discipline Team and the Office of Internal Oversight Services; and (e) coordinating closely with the United Nations country team and its task force on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse through the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator. The Committee was further informed that the dual reporting line of the designated Field Victims' Rights Advocate at UNMISS to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan and the Victims' Rights Advocate at Headquarters had not changed. **The Committee considers that the arrangements for providing the victim's rights advocate functions at UNMISS should be kept under review and will revert to this matter in the context of its consideration of the 2019/20 budgetary proposals for the Mission. In view of the functions being performed by the designated Advocate at UNMISS, the Committee considers that the organization chart of the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate, as presented in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General, should be adapted to reflect the existence of four rather than three field victims' rights advocates, with any relevant explanations, as required.**

Cost-sharing

16. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in its previous reports (A/71/867 and A/72/7/Add.27), it had recommended that consideration should be given to the application of a cost-sharing formula for apportioning the costs of the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate and the Office of the Special Coordinator among different funding sources. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that he is exploring cost-sharing arrangements for the Office through consultations with a number of United Nations entities, given the importance of ensuring the integration of a victim-centred approach into the Organization's efforts to address this issue (A/73/412, para. 8). The Committee looks forward to receiving an update information on this matter in the Secretary-General's next report.

Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

17. With regard to the Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (see A/72/7/Add.27, para. 24), the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Controller had designated the Department of Field Support as the implementing office and the Conduct and Discipline Unit as the programme manager of the Fund. The Committee was further informed that the terms of reference of the Fund stipulated that it had been established to support services for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations and related personnel. As of December 2018, the Fund had received some $2 million, which included voluntary contributions from 19 Member States, and had withheld payments from uniformed personnel for substantiated allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse. The Committee was further informed that six projects had been approved by an internal review committee, chaired by the Assistant Secretary-General for Field Support and with membership that

included the Victims' Rights Advocate, representatives of offices of the Secretariat and agencies, funds and programmes at the Assistant Secretary-General level and heads of mission. The approved projects included the provision of medical, psychosocial, vocational and livelihood support and are already under way in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic and Liberia. **The Committee encourages the Secretary-General to continue to pursue efforts to raise funds for the Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.**

Resource requirements

18. The Secretary-General is requesting the General Assembly to approve resources in the amount of $836,100 net ($930,200 gross) for 2019, comprising $772,500 for the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate under section 1 and $63,600 under section 29B, to cover general operating costs, including the rental of premises related to the four posts of the Office. A breakdown of the proposed resource requirements by object of expenditure is provided in tables 4 and 5 of the report of the Secretary-General. As indicated, the total amount of $772,500 proposed for the Office of the Victim's Rights Advocate comprises: (a) $706,800 under posts to provide for the conversion of four positions into established posts (1 Assistant Secretary-General, 1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)); (b) $53,400 under official travel; (c) $8,500 under contractual services to cover the standard cost of service-level agreements for maintenance support services; (d) $1,800 under general operating expenses, including requirements for communications services; and (e) $2,000 under supplies and materials, including requirements for stationery and office supplies.

19. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with the following table, summarizing the resources provided for the Office in 2018, expenditures incurred as at 30 September 2018 and proposed resources for 2019:

(Thousands of United States dollars)

		Secretary-General's proposal for 2018–2019	*Initial appropriation for 2018*[a]	*Expenditure as at 30 September 2018*	*Available balance for 2018*	*Secretary-General's proposal for 2019*
Section 1	Posts	796.9	–	–	–	706.8
	Other staff costs	–	391.9	520.9	(129.0)	–
	Travel of staff	103.4	88.0	59.1	28.9	53.4
	Contractual services	16.8	8.5	0.3	8.2	8.5
	General operating expenses	5.1	3.3	1.6	1.7	1.8
	Supplies and materials	4.0	2.0	1.1	0.9	2.0
	Furniture and equipment	7.5	7.5	–	7.5	–
Subtotal		**933.7**	**501.2**	**583.0**	**(81.8)**	**772.5**
Section 29D	General operating expenses	336.7	63.6	63.6	–	–
	Furniture and equipment	56.1	44.9	44.9	–	–
Subtotal		**392.8**	**108.5**	**108.5**	**–**	**–**
Section 29B	General operating expenses	–	–	–	–	63.6
Subtotal		**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**63.6**
Total		**1 326.5**	**609.7**	**691.5**	**(81.8)**	**836.1**

[a] Approved by General Assembly resolution 72/262 A. Resources were approved for the period 1 January to 31 December 2018.

20. With regard to the proposed resources for the conversion of posts, the Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly had approved the establishment of four positions in the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate (1 Assistant Secretary-General, 1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018, funded on the basis of a vacancy rate of 50 per cent applicable to new posts and positions ($391,900). In 2019, the Secretary-General is proposing the conversion of those same positions (1 Assistant Secretary-General, 1 P-4, 1 P-3, and 1 General Service (Other level)) to posts, funded on the basis of the vacancy rates applicable to continuing posts, namely 11.5 per cent for posts in the Professional and higher categories and 8.7 per cent for the General Service category ($706,800).

21. The Advisory Committee was further informed that the proposed requirements for general operating expenses for 2019 under the new section 29B, Department of Operational Support ($63,600), had been previously requested and approved in 2018, under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services.

22. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that all four positions in the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate (1 Assistant Secretary-General, 1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)) were encumbered. With regard to the three new positions for Field Victims' Rights Advocates approved by the General Assembly for MINUJUSTH (resolution 72/260 B), MINUSCA (resolution 72/290) and MONUSCO (resolution 72/293), the Committee was informed that the job classifications for these new positions had been completed and the relevant job openings had been created.

IV. Conclusions

23. The actions requested of the General Assembly are set out in paragraph 25 of the report of the Secretary-General. **Subject to its comments and recommendations in the paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly:**

(a) **Approve the additional resources proposed in the amount of $836,100 (net of staff assessment);**

(b) **Approve the conversion of the four positions to posts, comprising one Assistant Secretary-General, one P-4, one P-3 and one General Service (Other level), under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination;**

(c) **Appropriate an additional amount of $836,100 (net of staff assessment) under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination ($772,500), and section 29B, Department of Operational Support ($63,600), of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, which would represent a charge against the contingency fund;**

(d) **Appropriate an additional amount of $94,100 under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019.**

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Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.48

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/73/14) in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.48. During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 12 December 2018.

2. Under the terms of draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its seventy-fourth session on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution, including options and recommendations to improve its implementation.

3. According to the Secretary-General, the resources to implement the request of the General Assembly contained in paragraph 14 of the draft resolution would amount to $105,200, of which an amount of $26,000 would be absorbed, resulting in additional one-time requirements in the amount of $79,200. The resources would provide for the following activities:

(a) Under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management: documentation services in the amount of $26,000, which would be absorbed, for one pre-session document (8,500 words) in the six official languages, which would constitute an addition to the workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management;

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(b) Under section 24, Human rights: (i) an amount of $74,500 for general temporary assistance at the P-3 level for six months in 2019 to gather and analyse information, develop relevant options and recommendations and prepare the report; and (ii) an amount of $4,700 for travel of staff for the head of the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine to travel to New York to present the report.

4. With respect to the general temporary assistance at the P-3 level for six months in 2019, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the position would be based in Geneva and that the appropriate calculation basis had been applied.

5. With respect to the amount of $4,700 requested for the travel of staff, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the total requirements for travel of the head of the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine to New York for the purposes of presenting the report to the General Assembly would amount to $4,512, or $188 less than the requested amount. **The Advisory Committee notes the discrepancy and recommends the approval of $4,512 under travel of staff, representing a reduction of $188 in the amount proposed by the Secretary-General.**

6. **The Advisory Committee notes the extrabudgetary nature of the activity and trusts that the Secretary-General will ensure that extrabudgetary and regular budget resources are attributed appropriately.**

7. The Secretary-General indicates that no provisions have been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the implementation of the requested activities and that it would not be possible at present to identify activities within the section concerned that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium (A/C.5/73/14, para. 8). With respect to the total appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that, as at 30 November 2018, expenditures under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, amounted to $283,126,700, representing 45.3 per cent of the appropriation; and expenditures under section 24, Human rights, amounted to $106,229,800, representing 52.4 per cent of the appropriation.

8. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine was wholly funded through extrabudgetary resources in the amount of $6.85 million for 2019 and had been deployed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in March 2014 at the request of the Secretary-General and upon the invitation of the Government of Ukraine.

9. **Taking into account its recommendation in paragraph 5 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.48, an additional appropriation in the amount of $79,012 would be required under section 24, Human rights, for the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, representing a charge against the contingency fund.**

United Nations A/73/651

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Agenda items 45 and 78

Question of Cyprus

Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 12 December 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I regret to inform you that the Republic of Turkey continues its provocative and unlawful actions against the Republic of Cyprus through the conduct of illegal seismic surveys in the continental shelf and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of Cyprus.

On 18 October 2018, the Turkish State-owned survey vessel *Barbaros Hayreddin Paşa* and supporting vessels, accompanied and supported by Turkish warships, commenced seismic surveys in the southwest areas of the continental shelf/EEZ of Cyprus, including within parts of hydrocarbon exploration blocks 4 and 5 (see annex). The area has purportedly been reserved for seismic surveys by Turkey, via an unauthorized navigational warning dated 16 October, for the period from 18 October 2018 to 1 February 2019.

The aforementioned surveys constitute a violation by Turkey of the sovereign rights of Cyprus under international law and, in particular, the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the relevant provisions of which have long been crystallized into customary international law. Turkey has no legal standing whatsoever to conduct exploration activities with respect to the natural resources of the island without the express consent of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. All seismic data collected by Turkey during those illegal and unauthorized surveys belong to the Republic of Cyprus.

What is more, the activity of the Turkish warships in the aforementioned area constitutes an abuse of the rights vested in all States by customary international law, which is also reflected in UNCLOS, and runs contrary to the rule of peaceful uses of the seas. The behaviour of Turkey has the effect of increasing tensions, putting at risk the peace and security of the region.

The position of Cyprus regarding its rights to maritime zones is reflected in my previous letters addressed to you and circulated as documents of the General Assembly. In particular, the Republic of Cyprus declared an EEZ in 2004 and has inherent rights over the continental shelf of the island of Cyprus, the outer limits of both zones being the median line with the opposite States, pending agreement to the

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contrary. In this regard, the Republic of Cyprus has signed EEZ delimitation agreements with Egypt, Lebanon and Israel, on the basis of the median line.

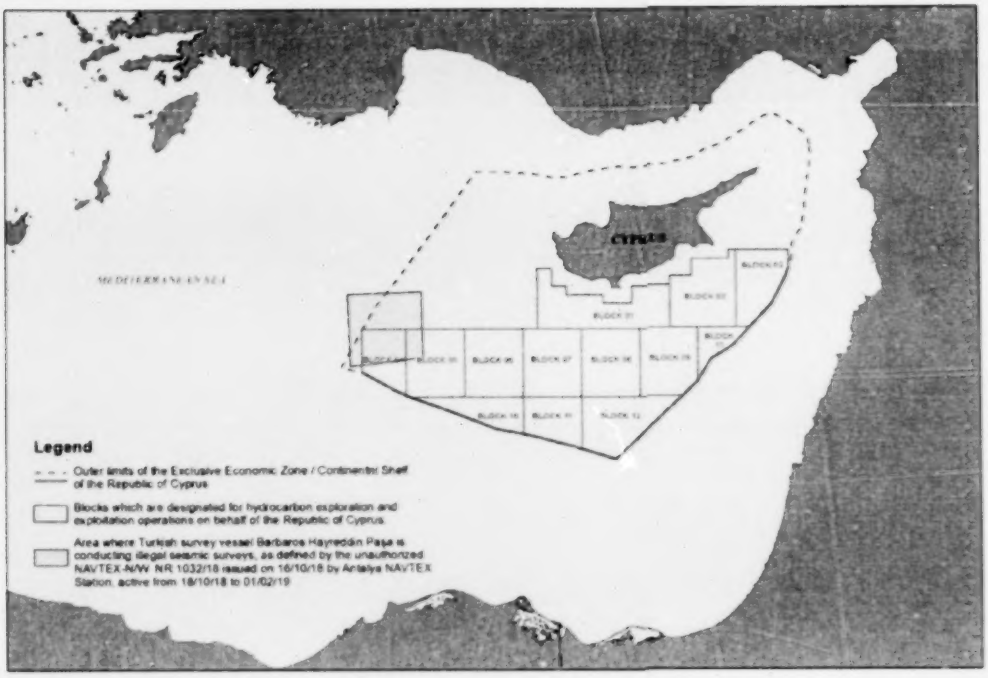
I recall, in this respect, that the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nikos Christodoulides, in recent public statements, invited Turkey to enter into negotiations with Cyprus with a view to reaching an agreement on the delimitation of our respective maritime zones. Cyprus holds the view that the two States should engage in meaningful negotiations conducted in good faith so as to reach an agreement, as prescribed by international law, contributing, thus, to the establishment of a stable and secure environment in the eastern Mediterranean.

I take this opportunity to reiterate my Government's invitation to Turkey to delimit our respective maritime zones, in accordance with international law.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 45 and 78, and published on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and in the next edition of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

(*Signed*) Kornelios S. **Korneliou**

Annex to the letter dated 12 December 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General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Legend
Outer limits of the Exclusive Economic Zone / Continental Shelf of the Republic of Cyprus
Blocks which are designated for hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation operations on behalf of the Republic of Cyprus.
Area where Turkish survey vessel Barbaros Hayreddin Paşa is conducting illegal seismic surveys, as defined by the unauthorized NAVTEX-NAV NR:1032/18 issued on 16/10/18 by Antalya NAVTEX Station, active from 18/10/18 to 01/02/19